



# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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## ELECTION NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Springfield, Illinois, April 5, 2012** - Public Act 97-0681, which became effective on March 30, 2012, amends section 7-43 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/7-43). This amendment provides that a person who files a statement of candidacy as an established party's candidate at a General Primary Election or who voted an established political party's ballot at the General Primary Election may not file a statement of candidacy as an independent candidate or as a different established party's candidate at the immediately following General Election.

For example, if a candidate filed a statement of candidacy for the 2012 General Primary Election or a voter voted at the 2012 General Primary Election, that candidate or voter could not appear as either an independent candidate or as a different established party's candidate on the 2012 General Election ballot.

A candidate who filed as an established party's candidate for the 2012 General Primary Election and either withdrew as a candidate or was removed by an electoral board proceeding would not be eligible to file as either an independent candidate or as the candidate of a different established political party. That candidate's only option would be to file as a member of a new political party slate.

Candidates who appeared on the 2012 General Primary ballot and were defeated for nomination would be prohibited from appearing on the 2012 General Election ballot as a candidate of another established political party, an independent candidate or a new political party candidate under the "sore loser" provisions of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 10-2 and 10-3).

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the state. Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities.

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